



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Uniontown, AL

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

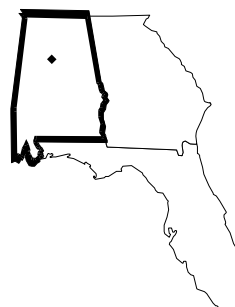
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Uniontown for a Brownfields Pilot. Uniontown is a small, rural community of 1,730 in west central Alabama, 30 miles west of Selma. The City's poverty rate is 41%; 67% of residents have low to moderate incomes; 65% of the population is African American; and the unemployment rate is 10%, slightly more than twice that of the State of Alabama and the United States. The City's population has declined 18% over the past 20 years, leading to lower property values and sociological, economic and environmental problems throughout the area. Unemployment is a serious problem in Uniontown, caused by the departure of four factories that were the City's major employers. These factory closings resulted in the layoff of the majority of the City's workforce.

The King Pharr vegetable canning factory complex was one of the area's major employers until it closed in 1974. The factory lay abandoned for several years, until the City purchased the property for redevelopment into an industrial park. For a brief period, the property was used to store "carbon black," a material used in cement and coloring products. Although a non-hazardous substance, the presence of carbon black has left potential purchasers with the perception that the property is contaminated.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Uniontown, Alabama

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the King Pharr factory site on the east side of the City for cleanup and redevelopment.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The City plans to revitalize the area by restoring and reusing existing resources. A high priority is the redevelopment of the King Pharr factory site, which would create jobs and improve the local tax base. To aid the community plan to redevelop the property into an industrial park, the Pilot will assess the site, assist with cleanup and redevelopment planning, and investigate innovative ways to finance cleanup of the property. The Pilot also plans to involve the community in brownfields issues and processes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I and II assessments of the targeted site;
- Developing innovative methods to finance cleanup of the targeted site;
- Developing innovative methods to clean up the targeted site;
- Preparing a cleanup and redevelopment plan for the property; and
- Conducting public outreach and involving the residents/community in town meetings relating to cleanup and redevelopment of the site.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.